

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS BOARD MEETING

APRIL 30, 2014

SUMMARY NOTES

Present: Janeen Amason, Stephen Braden, Maria Britt, J.C. Bradbury, Jason Brown, Richard Franza, Jim Herbert, Randy Kennedy, Rebecca Makus, Bob Mattox, Maureen McCarthy, Sara Metroka, Richard Mosholder, Daniel Niederjohn, Karen Pfeifer, Kandice Porter, Jerome Ratchford, Michael Redd, Susan Rouse, Heath Senour, Lynn Stallings, Brenda Stopher, and Vaughn Williams

Guests: Sterling Brown, Michael Dutcher, Dr. Tiffany Jones

Dr. Franza welcomed all and introductions around the room were given.

An overview of *The OWLS Champions Initiative* was provided. *The OWLS Champions Initiative* was derived from the mission of KSU Athletics in providing the best possible student-athlete experience through an environment that supports academic excellence and the well-being of student-athletes; and allows them to compete successfully at the highest levels of athletics. *The OWLS Champions Initiative* is about creating champions in the classroom, community, and competition. Appreciation was given to Henssler Financial for their valuable support and sponsorship of this initiative. Members of this committee are: Dr. Randy Kennedy (Student Athlete Success Services), Karen Pfeifer (Athlete Welfare Initiatives), Jason Flowers (Leadership Academy), Sterling Brown (Character Development), Dr. Tiffany Jones (Optimal Performance) and Michael Dutcher (Career Services).

Minutes from the Athletic Board Committee Meeting of February 19, 2014 were approved with no objections.

State of the Department was given by Athletic Director, Vaughn Williams. He commented on the great work *The OWLS Champions* leaders are doing including creating internship opportunities for student athletes by their junior year and developing career mentors. Sturgis, the KSU mascot owl, turned a year old and continues to be a big draw in making public appearances; especially at elementary schools in the community. Regardless of age, sharing Sturgis has been a great way to promote Kennesaw State University and has had a very positive impact. Currently, football has 2800 season tickets sold and March 28 has been set aside as simulation game day at KSU. Consolidation is moving forward with Southern Polytechnic, unifying with alumni, faculty and staff regarding sports programs. Vaughn stressed the importance of continuing to be transparent and in alignment with the athletic budget. He is ever mindful of building for a positive future and making sure services are being provided to meet the demands of student athletes. Emphasis continues to be on getting better, graduating our student athletes and securing jobs.

Brenda Stopher gave a brief overview of FY13 financials. There are two parts, the annual NCAA on-line detail expenditure revenue report broken out by sport and the agreed upon procedures report done by an external accounting firm to review. This report is due annually for the prior fiscal year. We want to provide transparency to this committee, but the financial side has primary fiduciary responsibility to the KSU Athletic Association and these reports are reviewed in detail at the executive level.

Heath Senour reported that we are currently in the midst of a dynamic shift in NCAA legislation in college athletics. New rules and proposals are forthcoming, including talks about athlete meals and welfare plans. The big five conferences are currently looking at more autonomy within the legislative government structure. There are many unanswered questions on how this will play out and hopefully we should know more in the next 6 months. A big issue is the Athletic Directors ability to provide scholarships up to the cost of school attendance. An extra \$2000 stipend was proposed in 2011-2012 and was not passed due to many institutions could not afford this.

The FAR update was given by Dan Niederjohn. He is currently working on exit interviews and end of season surveys and will report findings in the Fall. Dan opened the floor for suggestions with a concern from SASS regarding attendance policy for student athletes. There have been a few instances of professors penalizing students for missing class and giving them make-up work or re-testing during finals week. Is this make-up work equitable and fair? After extensive discussion, Dan will handle on a case by case basis and continue to work with the athletic board representative from each college to communicate university policy regarding the subject.

Richard Franza reported receiving a final exam policy exemption request from the woman's basketball team. This game was to be played on the Saturday of final exams week. Reasons for this one time exemption were; this game was held at home with no travel involved and finals were ending on Monday. Also taken into consideration was the season was a week shorter and it was more difficult to schedule non-conference games. An electronic vote was taken by the executive committee and the eight voting members passed in favor of providing this one time exception. This situation proved unique, was a definite one time exception, and will not set precedent.

Richard Franza reported that the AAC (Admissions Advisory Oversight Committee) spent the last couple of months meeting with each head coach and program administrators to review the new special admits process approved in November. This overview is very hands on and explains how the process is tied to APR. We look at their incoming class and who is admitted as Type I, Type II, Type III and how that might affect their team risk. The committee has received excellent questions from coaches and the meetings have worked very well. Each meeting has been very productive and coaches clearly want to know more. We have had our first two appeals, Type III in football and a home school student. According to KSU Admissions, in order to accept a home school student as a non-special admits, their test score must be above the mean of the last incoming class. The committee recommended admission for both of these student athletes. We are scheduled to meet again on May 15 for a series of more home school and international students. Right now, the process is working very well, but will revisit with the board as this process evolves.

Randy Kennedy reported on the ASC (Academic Support Oversight Committee). Really good news: APR update to NCAA; this is the first year all teams are above the 930 cut off score. This past fall semester, 70% of our student athletes have 3.0 GPA or higher. Provided committee updates on the academic performance agreement, when student athletes on probation fall below 2.0 GPA, students sign academic agreement. Preparing to add a new staff member for advisement purposes with the additional 50-80 incoming athletes.

The Title IX report has been deferred to fall.

Tentative dates for next year's meetings were discussed and ideally should mirror this year's schedule.

With no further business, Dr. Franza adjourned the meeting.